

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00690 071458Z
ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02
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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2455
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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, MTN, FI
SUBJECT: STATUS OF NORDIC COUNTRIES' INDUSTRIAL TARIFF OFFERS

REF: GENEVA 3305

1. MTN DELEGATION'S CONCERN ABOUT FINNISH DELAY IN TABLING INDUSTRIAL TARIFF OFFERS WAS DISCUSSED WITH KARKKAINEN OF MFA AND RAIKKONEN OF CONFEDERATION OF FINNISH INDUSTRIES, WHICH HAS PLAYED CENTRAL ROLE IN PREPARATION OF FINNISH OFFER. IT IS CLEAR FROM THEIR COMMENTS THAT AMBASSADOR KAARLEHTO HAS RETURNED TO HELSINKI LAST WEEK TO PROD OFFICIALS OVERSEEING PREPARATION OF THE FINNISH OFFER. HOWEVER, THE FINNS WILL NOT COMPLETE WORK ON THEIR OFFER FOR ANOTHER TWO OR THREE WEEKS, RAIKKONEN ESTIMATES. THE DELAY STEMS FROM THE COMPLEXITIES OF SORTING OUT BINDINGS, WHICH A WORKING GROUP HEADED BY THE BOARD OF CUSTOMS IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN.
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2. THE FINNISH OFFER, LIKE THOSE OF THE OTHER NORDICS, WILL REFLECT THE SWISS FORMULA WITH A COEFFICIENT OF 16. IT APPEARS THAT EXCEPTIONS WILL ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT TEN PERCENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM MFN COUNTRIES, I.E. THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN, AND THE HANDFUL OF OTHERS WHOSE GOODS DO NOT BENEFIT FROM DUTY-FREE TREATMENT

ACCORDED UNDER THE FINNISH GSP AND THE VARIOUS FREE-
TRADE ARRANGEMENTS CONCLUDED WITH EASTERN AND WESTERN
COUNTRIES.

3. AS WE ASSUME MTN DELEGATION IS AWARE, DURING THE
OPENING BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE US ON MARCH 10,
NOW SET FOR TWO HOURS, THE FINNS ENVISION TAKING UP TWO
SUBJECTS: THEIR REACTIONS TO THE US OFFER AND A GENERAL
EXPLANATION OF THE FINNISH OFFER, INCLUDING DISCUSSION
OF EXCEPTIONS. WE GATHER EKBLOM WILL HEAD FINNISH SIDE,
WITH VELI SUNDBACK OF MFA ATTENDING FROM HELSINKI.

RIDGWAY

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Message Attributes

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